National Bio-fertilizer Development Centre (NBDC) and its six Regional Centres (RBDCs) including the Regional Centre at Nagpur.

In order to facilitate, encourage and promote development of Organic Farming in the country, NBDC and RBDCs have been renamed as National Centres of Organic Farming (NCOF) and Regional Centres of Organic Farming (RCOFs).

(c) Does not arise.

Godowns in rural areas

1862. SHRI S.P.M. SYED KHAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have proposed to set up large number of storage godowns in rural areas;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the existing storage capacity and the proposed number of storage godowns to be set up in the rural areas of Tamil Nadu?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Government has planned to construct 140 lakh tonnes of storage capacity in rural areas in the country during Tenth Plan period. For the purpose, capital investment subsidy is being provided on the cost of the storage project under the central sector scheme of Construction of Rural Godowns. Under this scheme, project for construction of rural godowns can be taken up by individual farmers, group of farmers/growers cooperatives, companies, etc. the entrepreneurs are free to construct a godown at any place and of any size as per their commercial judgement except for the restrictions that it would be outside the limits of Municipal Corporation area and be of minimum capacity of 50 MT (25 MT for hilly areas). Construction of rural godown is to be decided by the entrepreneurs on need basis and its economy viability as a bankable project. Credit linked back ended subsidy @ 15% to 33.33% of the capital cost of the project for various categories is provided through NABARD and NCDC. The benefit of the scheme is available to the entrepreneurs throughout the country.

(c) In Tamil Nadu, 37 godowns with a storage capacity of 41721 tonnes have so far been sanctioned. It is planned to assist construction of rural godowns of 36 lakh tonnes (32 lakh tonnes new storage 4 lakh tonnes renovation) capacity during the remaining period of Tenth Plan in the country. Entrepreneurs in Tamil Nadu can take up any number of storage projects within the said targeted capacity.

Drought Proofing Policy

1863. SHRIMATI PREMA CARIAPPA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to formulate a permanent policy on Drought Proofing;

(b) if so, the salient features of the policy; and

(c) the details of the assistance extended to Karnataka as the drought affected State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA) : (a) to (c) Drought Proofing involves extending irrigation coverage, improving soil moisture through proper management of water and treating susceptible areas to reduce their vulnerability to frequent failures of rains. A policy framework exists which seeks to achieve these objectives through a number of initiatives such as:

(i) Drought Prone Areas Programme (DPAP)

(ii) Desert Development Programme (DDP)

(iii) National Watershed Development Project for Rainfed Areas (NWDPRA)

(iv) Watershed Development in Catchments of River Valley Projects and Flood Prone Rivers (RVP & FPR)

(v) Integrated Wastelands Development Programme (IWDP)

(vi) Watershed Development Project for Shifting Cultivation Areas (WDPSCA)

(vii) Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme (AIBP).